

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

DAM

CODE 402

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date_____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained dam can be an asset to the farm. The dam was designed and installed to provide storage to runoff water for beneficial use. Estimated life span of this installation is at least _____ years. The life of the dam can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- The dam should be inspected at least annually and especially after heavy rains to determine whether it is functioning properly or if repairs are needed.
- The water level established by the outlet structure shall not be manipulated to raise the water level above the planned elevation.
- Appurtenances such as trash racks, outlet structures and gates shall be kept free of trash and replaced when needed. Remove debris that may accumulate at the embankment and immediately upstream or downstream from the dam. Screens and/or rodent guards shall be kept in place. If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized livestock entry.
- Erosion on the slopes of the dam and in the earth auxiliary spillway shall be filled with suitable material, compacted, seeded and fertilized as needed. Should the upstream face of the dam erode due to wave action, protection such as riprap may be needed. If seepage through or under the dam occurs, proper corrective measures shall be taken immediately.
- The vegetative cover of the dam and earth spillway shall be maintained by mowing and fertilizing when needed. Trees can cause leaks and safety hazards and should not be permitted on the embankment or in the auxiliary spillway. When needed, fencing and water troughs will be provided to protect the pond and vegetation from livestock.
- At least twice yearly inspect the spillways and control gates for proper functioning for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions in spillways.

- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseedling, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Fertilize as needed to maintain a uniform vigorous stand. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to any earthfills, spillways, outlets or other appurtenance.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.
- If required by the Virginia Impounding Structure Regulations, the emergency action plan shall be kept readily available and followed in case of an emergency.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:_____

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